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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Slovenia

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

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1. This document is the response of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia to the recommendations made during the 2nd Universal Periodic Review of Slovenia on 4 November 2014. The Working Group's report contains 163 recommendations. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia examined the recommendations and prepared the following responses.

2. The Government of Slovenia accepts 142 recommendations. For the time being, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia notes 21 recommendations. The responses are clustered in three categories: 1. Accepted recommendations; 2. Accepted recommendations that Slovenia considers already implemented or in process of implementation; 3. Noted recommendations.[1]

I. Accepted recommendations

3. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia accepts the recommendations 1–5, 14–16, 20–23, 31–39, 44, 47, 48, 51, 52, 55–58, 60, 62, 63, 66, 70, 74, 76, 79, 94–103, 111, 119, 122, 125–130, 133, 135, 137, 138, 141–143, 147–149, 155, 158, 161.

II. Accepted recommendations that Slovenia considers already implemented or in process of implementation

4. The Government of the Republic of Slovenia accepts the recommendations 18, 24, 25, 29, 30, 40, 42, 43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 53, 54, 59, 61, 64, 65, 67–69, 71–73, 75, 77, 78, 80–93, 104–110, 112–118, 120, 121, 123, 124, 131, 134, 136, 139, 140, 145, 146, 150 – 152, 159, 160, 162. Slovenia considers that they are already implemented or in the process of implementation, and provides some additional information about the implementation.

Rec. 18 We consider that this recommendation is implemented. The National Assembly ratified the convention on 19 December 2014. The ratification instrument was deposited on 5 February 2015. The convention will enter into force for Slovenia on 1 June 2015.

Rec. 24 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. On the national level, we implement different programs for human rights education in schools as well as in the Police and judiciary systems. We also support international activities in this field, including through the implementation of the Our Rights project.[2]

Rec. 25 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Slovenia pays special attention to education and employability of Roma women in different national programmes and action plans, including the National Programme of Measures for Roma 2010–2015.

Rec. 29 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Human rights education is included in the school curricula. Training programmes for teachers are also being implemented.

Rec. 30 See recommendation 24.

Rec. 40 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing.

Rec. 42 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing.

Rec. 43 We consider that this recommendation is implemented. Slovenia submitted its 3rd periodic report to the Human Rights Committee in July 2014.

Rec. 45 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Hate speech is a criminal offence in Slovenia. Several programmes concerning media contents in this area are implemented. The Web portal "Web Eye" (spletno-oko.si) has proven very successful in preventing hate speech online.

Rec. 46 We consider that this recommendation is implemented. The Criminal Code already criminalizes public incitement to hatred, violence and intolerance. Hate speech is also considered a criminal offence.

Rec. 49 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Religious discrimination as well as public incitement to religious discrimination, hatred and intolerance is prohibited.

Rec. 50 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Equal enjoyment of human rights is ensured by the Constitution and regulated by legislative acts.

Rec. 53 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The Government of Slovenia implements different programmes and activities aimed at raising awareness of discrimination-related issues, including through the Resolution on the National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018, different media campaigns about the importance of integrating migrants into the society, etc.

Rec. 54 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Equal enjoyment of human rights is ensured by the Constitution and regulated by legislative acts. Various awareness raising campaigns have been carried out and training courses for officials implemented (i.e. police officers training for work in multicultural environments).

Rec. 59 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Slovenia respects its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and will continue its efforts to achieve gender equality through a number of national programmes and measures.

Rec. 61 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Slovenia has already introduced gender quotas into the national electoral law.

Rec. 64 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Slovenian legislation ensures freedom of religion and belief, and equal treatment of religious communities. Relevant authorities promote respect for all religious communities and inter-religious dialogue.

Rec. 65 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. In the field of cultural rights the line ministry provides different programmes, and finances activities for the protection of cultural rights of minorities and other social groups.

Rec. 67 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Specific measures are implemented to ensure equal access of Roma children to quality education, e.g. with Roma pedagogical assistants.

Rec. 68 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing.

Rec. 69 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. A number of programmes and awareness-raising campaigns have been implemented in this field.

Rec. 71 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The Government is implementing the National Programme of Measures for Roma 2010–2015 through different sector-specific programmes and measures. The Programme's aims are to combat discrimination against Roma, improve their housing conditions, raise their educational level, increase their employment, improve their health care, and preserve their language and culture. The Government will continue these efforts, and is already drafting the National Programme of Measures for Roma 2016–2021.

Rec. 72 See recommendation 71.

Rec. 73 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. In the field of cultural rights the line ministry provides different programmes, and finances activities for the protection of cultural rights of minorities and other social groups, including Roma. Furthermore, access to primary education is guaranteed to all Roma, and the line ministry is putting in place additional measures to increase the number of Roma children who successfully complete schooling.

Rec. 75 See recommendation 71.

Rec. 77 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. In the field of cultural rights, the line ministry provides a number of programmes that include several activities for combating discrimination.

Rec. 78 See also recommendations 53, 71 and 77.

Rec. 80 See recommendation 71.

Rec. 81 See recommendation 71.

Rec. 82 See recommendation 71.

Rec. 83 See recommendation 71.

Rec. 84 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The line ministry pays special attention to the education of ethnic minority and Roma children. It finances a number of programmes for Roma children, their parents and teachers.

Rec. 85 See recommendation 53.

Rec. 86 See recommendations 53 and 71.

Rec. 87 See recommendations 53 and 71.

Rec. 88 See recommendation 71.

Rec. 89 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The line government office has already started preparing changes to the existing Roma Community Act.

Rec. 90 See recommendations 53 and 71.

Rec. 91 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Equal access to rights is guaranteed to all children,

including Roma children. The Government implements additional programmes to ensure better access to vulnerable groups.

Rec. 92 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Draft legislative proposal is currently being discussed in the National Assembly.

Rec. 93 See recommendation 92.

Rec. 104 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing.

Rec. 105 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The government is currently preparing a new resolution on equal opportunities of women and men that includes specific measures to address violence against women.

Rec. 106 See recommendation 105.

Rec. 107 See recommendation 105.

Rec. 108 See recommendation 105.

Rec. 109 See recommendation 105.

Rec. 110 See recommendation 105.

Rec. 112 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Prohibition of corporal punishment will be part of the revision of the Family Code that is under preparation.

Rec. 113 See recommendation 112.

Rec. 114 See recommendation 112.

Rec. 115 See recommendation 112.

Rec. 116 See recommendation 112.

Rec. 117 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing.

Rec. 118 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Outlawing violence against children will be part of the revision of the Family Code that is under preparation.

Rec. 120 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. In accordance with the existing measures, victims of trafficking in human beings receive comprehensive protection and assistance.

Rec. 121 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Slovenia is active in the international efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, especially through cooperation in SE Europe.

Rec. 123 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The comprehensive strategy to combat trafficking in human beings – biannual action plan – also includes specific measures to address vulnerable groups including women and children.

Rec. 124 See recommendation 123.

Rec. 131 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing.

Rec. 134 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Protection against interference in the establishment, functioning, and administration of worker organisations is ensured by the Constitution and several legislative acts.

Rec. 136 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The government is aiming to protect the most vulnerable groups by introducing changes into the national social legislation.

Rec. 139 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. Access to drinking water and sanitation is legally regulated for all inhabitants with permanent residence in equal manner.

Rec. 140 See recommendation 139.

Rec. 145 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. To ensure enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms to persons with disabilities on an equal footing with others, a number of regulations were adopted that also include provisions on providing financial assistance for their needs. The Equalisation of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities Act includes provisions to ensure financial support to different programmes and activities for ensuring equal opportunities to persons with disabilities.

Rec. 146 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons Act regulates activities to promote employment of persons with disabilities. The Act has significantly improved the situation of persons with disabilities in the labour market.

Rec. 150 See recommendation 71.

Rec. 151 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The National Programme for Language Policy 2014–2018 envisages several measures for speakers of minority languages. An action plan to implement measures for bilingualism has also been adopted.

Rec. 152 See recommendation 151.

Rec. 159 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing. The government is already including representatives of the Roma community in the preparation, formulation and implementation of all key programmes and strategies for Roma.

Rec. 160 We consider that the activities for the implementation of this recommendation are already ongoing.

Rec. 162 See recommendation 151.

III. Noted recommendations

5. For the time being, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia notes recommendations 6–13, 17, 19, 26–28, 41, 132, 144, 153, 154, 156, 157, 163. The Government of Slovenia wishes to provide the following additional information.

Recs. 6–13 The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning to ratify the Convention. Slovenia already guarantees most of the rights contained in the Convention to migrant workers and their family members in the Slovenian labour market,

and shares the objectives of the Convention. The rights of migrants are also protected by the existing EU legislation.

Rec. 17 The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning to ratify the Convention. All the essential elements of the Convention are included in the Citizenship of the Republic of Slovenia Act.

Rec. 19 The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning to change this act.

Rec. 26 To implement the relevant recommendation of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, a special department for children's rights has been established within Ombudsperson's Office, and one of Ombudsperson's deputies has been tasked with the protection of children's rights. Due to financial constraints, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning additional action in this area.

Rec. 27 The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning to develop national human rights indicators. However, progress in several areas of human rights can be measured through implementation reports of existing national action plans and official statistics.

Rec. 28 The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning to adopt such an act. Children's rights as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and are already transposed into Slovenian national legislation.

Rec. 41 The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning to change this act. However, prohibition of demeaning treatment of children will be part of the revision of the Family Code, which is under preparation.

Rec. 132 The Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning to decriminalize defamation.

Rec. 144 The line ministry within the Government has consistently implemented activities to protect cultural rights of national communities since 1990. Dialogue with those communities is part of the policy planning in the area of language preservation. In 2010, the financial resources for German-speaking community projects were doubled. Due to financial constraints, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia is currently not planning additional action in this area.

Rec. 153 Currently, the Government has not adopted any plans to strengthen the institutional framework for the promotion and protection of minority rights.

Rec. 154 Currently, the Government has not adopted any plans to implement additional measures in this area. Equal treatment of all citizens is ensured by the Constitution. On Roma, see also recommendation 71.

Rec. 156 Currently, the Government has not adopted any plans to reconsider the grounds for recognition of national minority status.

Rec. 157 In Slovenia, censuses are no longer conducted through field survey. In the 2002 census, an optional question on national ethnicity was included in the questionnaire, but many respondents decided not to answer it. Since 2011 Slovenia has conducted censuses as a register-based survey, including the civil register. No register contains information on national ethnicity. Data gathering on national ethnicity is also not included in the medium-term plan of statistical research 2013–2017.

Rec. 163 See information on recommendations 6–13.

Notes

[1] The serial numbers of recommendations follow the list in paragraph 115 of the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review regarding the review of Slovenia (A/HRC/28/15).

[2] See Annex 1 to the National Report of Slovenia for UPR 2nd Cycle.